

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3055

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23563

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS, VT

SUBJECT: VOTING INTEREST IN UNESCO

REF: STATE 216390

1. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION PROVIDED DEPARTMENT REFTEL, PERMDEL NOTES THAT JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE HAS BEEN AN ISSUE BEFORE UNESCO SINCE 1967. IN ADDITION TO RESOLUTIONS CRITICAL OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS ADOPTED AT UNESCO EXBD SESSIONS AND GENERAL CONFERENCES THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR INVESTIGATORY MISSIONS BY ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPERTS UNDER UNESCO AUSPICES TO VISIT EXCAVATIONS SITE: ITALIAN EXPERT ANGELIS D' OSSATTI IN 1969; BELGIAN EXPERT LEMAIRE IN DECEMBER, 1971, DECEMBER, 1973 AND IN APRIL 1974 UNDER AUSPICES UNESCO DG MAHEU (NOT M'BOW AS PER REFTEL). LEMAIRE REPORTEDLY SET TO MAKE ANOTHER VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE. REPORTS WERE MADE TO UNESCO BY LEMAIRE ON THE BASIS OF HIS 1971 AND 1973 VISITS. ORIGINAL REPORT, I.E. FULL TEXT OF THIS RESOLUTION, TO THIS DATE HAS BEEN TIGHTLY HELD, AT GOI INSISTENCE, BY UNESCO SECRETARIAT WHICH RELEASED ITS REPORT REFLECTING ONLY LEMAIRE COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF EXCAVATIONS. OUR BEST INFORMATION CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS INDICATING THAT EXCAVATIONS

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MATION CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS INDICATING THAT EXCAVATIONS

BY AND LARGE CARRIED OUT IN SKILLFUL PROFESSIONAL MANNER. HOWEVER, LEMAIRE APPARENTLY ALSO CRITICAL OF CHANGES IN JERUSALEM HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE; ISSUE WHICH ALSO ADOPTED BY 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION SANCTIONING EXCAVATIONS BY SUSPENSION OF UNESCO ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL EXCAVATIONS HALTED. IN ESSENCE CONTROVERSY REFLECTS DEEP ARAB RESENTMENT OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT DIGS HAVE BEEN HARMFUL TO SHRINES OF OTHER MAJOR RELIGIONS AND BASIC ISSUE OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF JERUSALEM.

2. GOI HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE LEMAIRE AGAIN AND DG M'BOW IS ANXIOUS FOR HIM TO GO. HOWEVER LEMAIRE HAS NOT YET SET A DATE FOR HIS DEPARTURE. IT IS HOPED HE WILL RETURN SOMETIME IN EARLY AUTUMN. IF HE DOES RETURN TO JERUSALEM IT WOULD BE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNESCO AND GOI AND NOT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

3. DG M'POW FEELS STRONGLY THAT GOI HAS NOT MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT GESTURE RE HALTING THE EXCAVATIONS.
RUSH

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